Suddenly
from heaven
there came a sound
like the rush of a violent
wind, and it filled
the entire house
where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 24 Number 11 *December 2007*

Garden In A Box

by Pastor Gary Dalenius, Holy Cross Lutheran in Bellevue

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Maybin Chisebuka asked Holy Cross Lutheran of Bellevue to allow AFRI-net, a non-profit organization of which Maybin is the current director, to use a portion of the congregation's orchard to demonstrate his idea of a *Garden in a Box* for two years.

Pastor Gary Dalenius prays during the blessing of the garden.

The *Garden in a Box* is a plot that can supply food year round for families in Zambia when planted with plants native to Zambia. Any donations for the *Garden in a Box* will go to AFRI-net. Also, vegetables that Maybin would raise would be sold to neighboring grocery stores or perhaps even at a fruit stand at the edge of the orchard. Again, any proceeds would fund AFRI-net.

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Open House

Please join the synod staff and others from around the synod at our annual **Synod Office Christmas Open House.** The Open House will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 16, at the synod office.

May the Birth of Him
Who Was Born in a
Manger Bring You
Blessings of Joy, Peace,
Love and Hope in the
New Year and Always.

Bishop Chris Boerger and the Staff of the Northwest Washington Synod

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5519 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98103-5829.
206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833.
Email: office@lutheransnw.org. Website: www.lutheransnw.org.

Synod Office Staff:
The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop—boerger@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop—nesse@lutheransnw.org
Jim Goeben, Webmaster—jim@lutheransnw.org
Elaine Harrison, Synod Relations Administrator—elaine@lutheransnw.org
Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator—margit@lutheransnw.org
Margaret Spatafore, Synod Office Administrator—margaret@lutheransnw.org
General Office Information—office@lutheransnw.org

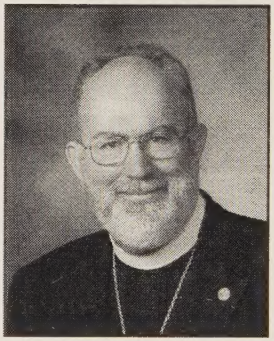
Deadline for the January 2008 issue of Soundings *and* The Spirit *is Wednesday, Dec. 5. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.*

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings *and* The Spirit. *Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org/News&Info.*

A Word From The Bishop

" Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2 NRSV



The Reverend
Wm Chris Boerger

While in Chicago for the recent Conference of Bishops' meeting, I heard again of the work of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). Parts of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the La Crosse Area Synod were heavily hit by floods. The recent fires in Southern California received much national publicity, but four times as many homes were destroyed by the floods than by the heavily publicized fires. Both are tragedies that invite our response.

I am proud again to say that one of the first groups on the ground in both the upper Midwest and in southern California was Lutheran Disaster Response. LDR is working with volunteers in the Midwest and with teams of pastors providing emotional and spiritual support in California. This is not a *one size fits all* disaster response. LDR responds to the communities with the shared strengths of this church and in response to the real needs of the people on the ground.

People ask me regularly why being part of the larger church is important. I tell them that there are many reasons, but the cooperation in efforts like Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the biggest ones. We read the news with the same helpless feelings that our neighbors bring to stories of disaster. We also know that we can respond quickly and efficiently to these needs through our church. Currently there are 11 specific response projects listed on the ELCA website, www.elca.org/disaster. The synod website, www.lutheransnw.org, has links to the two domestic disasters I reference in this article. I want to encourage you to look to the synod website as a first stop in responding to disasters around the world and here at home.

We are a people who have been richly blessed. We are also a people who have the God given blessings to be a blessing to people in their times of need. I pray that we will continue the work that has been done in Christ's name through Lutheran Disaster Response. I commend this effort to you and to the congregations you serve.

The *Book of Faith* Initiative

At the 2007 Churchwide Assembly voting members committed to a five-year initiative of "broader and deeper engagement with Scripture." This initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, and empowered by the Word. On the ELCA website at www.elca.org/bookoffaith it says:

The Bible is a book of faith

The Bible is the written Word of God that creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Christ, the incarnate Word and center of our faith. The Bible invites us into a relationship with God, making demands on our lives and promising us life in Christ. The Bible tells the stories of people living their faith over the centuries and, through its demands and promises, forms us as a people of faith.

We have a calling as the people of God

Part of our calling is to know, hear, share, and be rooted in Scripture. As we live into our calling as people who are formed by Scripture, we become renewed in our faith, enlivened through the Spirit, and empowered through the cross of Christ to serve God and neighbor. The first year of the Book of Faith initiative centers on inviting everyone to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative. There are opportunities for individuals and congregations to be part of this initiative by joining and making a commitment, by encouraging others to become part of the initiative and by contributing ideas, practices and suggestions to others. Diane Jacobson, professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., will serve as director of the initiative. Visit www.elca.org/bookoffaith for more information.

Byberg Gathering

The Byberg Preaching Workshop 2008 Presents: Douglas John Hall on "What Christianity Is Not" from January 14 – 16 at the Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center, Oregon. Registrations will be mailed out the last week of October. Douglas John Hall's interests as a theologian have included developing a theology indigenous to North America, investigating the theology of the cross for our time, and broadening the biblical symbol of "steward" to respond to the ecological crisis.

For the Byberg Preaching Workshop 2008, Dr. Hall will address "Religion in a Violent World: Distinguishing the Essence from the Accidens." He proposes that Christianity is not a culture-religion, a religion-of-the book, nor a system of morality. And he will preach about what he thinks Christianity is.

Northwest 3D Ministries Conference

Singing the Lord's Song in a Foreign Land

There was a day when churches were small and neighborhood based. The folks you worshipped with were also there in the workplace, grocery store, neighborhood schools, etc. For all too many, such is no longer the case. Many of us live in suburbs where our neighborhoods simply house the places where we hang our clothes at night. All too often we participate in a worship service where we know but a handful of other church members.

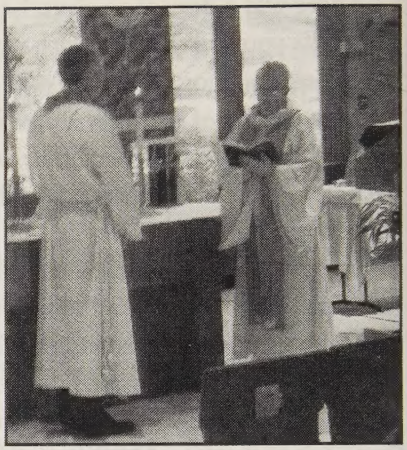
Is this the biblical model of covenant community? Hardly... Join us November 30-December 1 to explore a new/ancient model for covenant community. One that is based in homes, lad by normal folks, with little dependency on professional theologians or specialists. Keynote speaker for the conference will be Mike Breen, who revolutionized a parish in Sheffield, U.K., through the use of the ancient model of gathering in homes to develop community in Christ. Mike is now training pastors and lay leaders around the world in this new/ancient model for covenant community. The highly acclaimed singer/songwriter/guitar player David Harsch will be our worship leader.

A pre-Conference for church leaders will be held during the day on November 30, from 9 a.m.-4:30p.m., featuring 3DM Leader Rev. Mike Breen. Mike will cover DNA of the Bible, Mid-Sized Gatherings, and Leadership in a New Day. Registration is $50 for Pre-Conference (including lunch and snacks).

The 3D Ministries Fall Conference begins at 7p.m. Friday, Nov. 30, and runs through Saturday afteroon, Dec. 1. Conference participants will have a choice of three streams: Mid-Sized Gatherings (Clusters) in the Congregation; Leadership in a New Day; and LifeShapes. Registration is $75. Conference (including Saturday lunch and snacks). Discount for multiple registrants from same congregation.

Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church, 22818 SE 8th St. Sammamish, is the host congregation for this exciting event. The congregation is the Northwest Hub Church for the newly organized 3D Ministries Network. For more information on the Network, either ask Conference Coordinator John LaMunyon (www.shlc.org or contact Pastor John LaMunyon; 425.392.7799, ext. 13; prjohn@shlc.org.) or go to the 3D Ministries website, www.3dministries.com.

Rev. Carlson Installed



"If you wouldn't call him Woody before he was installed at Wooden Cross Lutheran Church in Woodinville, you would now, wouldn't you?" Those were the words that Pastor Jan Nesse used to begin the installation of Pastor Woody Carlson on Sunday, November 5. She then went on to challenge the congregation to be leaders in "being" the church in areas of nurturing families, especially non-traditional families; in stewardship of the earth, and in reconciliation as a witness to the world of Jesus Christ. The service was filled with eager members of Wooden Cross Lutheran Church, several members from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Maple Valley where Pastor Carlson had just completed an interim, and members of Holy Trinity on Mercer Island where he served before he moved to the Rocky Mountain Synod a number of years ago.

continued from page 1

Garden In A Box

During the worship service on October 7, (the gospel for the day was the parable of the Mustard Seed), Maybin quoted Matthew 17:20:

"If you have faith as a mustard seed, you'll say to this **mountain,** move! From here to there, and it will move! And nothing will be impossible for you."

Seedcountless seeds! Seed stands alone, unless planted.

Seed—Inside of seed is deep hope, hope to overcome any hopeless situation. But seed is hopeless, unless planted.

Seed—Though small, fragile and seemingly dead, seed has enough power to awaken Giants. But seed is powerless unless planted.

Seed—the fellowship of seed is the fellowship of one, the working together of FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. The sacrifice of a relentless heart, seeking to prove that seed. Seed has power! The power of life.

Afri-NET is ready to plant that seed and the Holy Cross family has demonstrated by gathering here today that we can unlock the gates of plenty to enjoy! We at Holy Cross today stand as that mustard seed. For Afri-NET it is building dreams, deepening hope and our mustard seed is a Garden in a box.

Pastor Jean Barrington, center, at her installation on October 21 at Trinity Commmunity Church in Point Roberts. With her are (left) the Rev. Timothy Whiteman, pastor at Central Lutheran in Bellingham; and (right) the Rev. Ernie Loreen (ret.)

Barrington Installation

State Advocate's Corner

by Rev. Paul Benz

Lutheran Public Policy
Office of Washington State
dcoombs@lcsnw.org
206-464-4133
www.lppowa.org

Public Church has been lifted up these past few years as an important part of our baptismal vocation. Indeed our Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has spoken about this many times and is a living example of it. Locally, Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda has authored a book with this title: "Public Church – for the life of the world". LPPO (Lutheran Public Policy Office) encourages congregations to use it as an adult education class resource. Both the LBW and our new book of worship have this calling in the service for Affirmation of Baptism, "strive for justice and peace throughout all the world".

LPPO encourages ELCA members to be public church witnesses by engaging elected officials around a critical issue that government is connected to. Every year for the past five years LPPO has sponsored a Lutheran Advocacy Day in Olympia during the state legislature. At the 2007 advocacy day we had close to 200 people at Gloria Dei – Olympia! The past two years we've been inviting our friends from other denominations who call it Faith Advocacy Day. We hope for greater participation from every denomination in our state to where we could even double the turnout! Here are the particulars for the 2008 Faith Advocacy Day:

- Tuesday, January 29—8:30am to 3:30pm with a noon assembly at the Capital Rotunda; Good Shepherd Lutheran in Olympia ; RSVP the LPPO office at dcoombs@lcsnw.org or 206-464-4133; packets with registration materials will be sent by December 1st.

We urge your participation on this day and invit others from your church and your friends from other denominations! As always LPPO is very willing to come to your church on Sunday morning for our advocacy "teach & preach"; or at any other time for an advocacy forum where other nearby churches are invited.

Gloria Dei Endowment Fund

In 1990 Gloria Dei Lutheran in Newport Hills closed its doors and sold its property, giving the proceeds as an Endowment to the Northwest Washington Synod. Over the years, the Gloria Dei Fund has provided many grants to assist professional leaders with sabbaticals, continuing education and leadership development opportunities and seed money for new or expanding ministries.

The Governing By-Laws of the Gloria Dei Endowment Fund stipulate that a minimum of 60% of grant funds be used for sabbatical, continuing education and leadership development for rostered leaders. Other allowable purposes are evangelism and parish outreach, parish education, support for mission congregations and support of the social ministries of the NW Washington Synod.

The Gloria Dei Endowment Fund Committee welcomes applications for grants. An application form which includes grant guidelines is available for download on the synod's website: www.lutheransnw.org.

Committee members are Bev Piro, Phinney Ridge, Chair; Karen Dicken, Holy Spirit, Kirkland; and Marlin Appelwick, Faith, Seattle. Grant applications should submitted to the Fund's chair, Pastor Beverly Piro at Phinney Ridge Lutheran, 7500 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103. For more information contact Pastor Piro at 206-783-2350 or bpiro@prlc.org.

News and Notes

- **The ELCA Hunger Packets** were recently mailed. The packets include important resources such as the Good Gifts Catalog (www.elca.org/giving), Souper Bowl Sunday flyer (the 2008 goal is to have 150,000 participate and to raise more than $10 million; www.souperbowl.com), how to order Eco Palms for Palm Sunday (www.lwr.org/palms) and much more.
- **University Lutheran in Seattle** celebrated their 90th anniversary on October 13. The congregation celebrated with a dinner and then a Festival of Worship.
- Every Thursday morning the **Cross and Crown Quilters (Renton)** join hands in prayer for all of the people of their congregation's prayer list. The opportunity to gather in a special weekly prayer is a true blessing to the whole group.
- The basement at **Prince of Peace in Shoreline** has been renovated following the major storm water damage last December.

Within Our Family

To Keep In Our Prayers...

We continue to hold in our prayers:

- † **The Rev. Charles Davis (ret.)**
- † **The Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita**
- † **Bill France, husband of the Rev. Sarah France of Morning Star Luthern in Monroe**
- † **The Rev. Ed Kasten (ret.)**
- † **Paula Ingebritson, wife of Pastor Joel Ingebritson, Bethlehem Lutheran in Seattle**
- † **Arlett Nordsletten, widow of Pastor Olin Nordsletten**
- † **The Rev. Robert V. Rieke (ret.)**
- † **The Rev. Erik Kindem**
- † **The Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)**
- † **The Rev. Roger Patrov (ret.)**
- † **Linda Petrasek, wife of the Rev. Phil Petrasek, pastor at Christ Lutheran in Ferndale**
- † **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

We pray for:

† **Eugene Kindschuh** ('**Kink**'), a retired pastor of the Oregon Synod, died Friday, 26 October. Pastor Kindschuh served at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Mercer Island from 1977 to 1989. A memorial service was held at Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland OR. Memorials may be made to the Augustana Foundation.

† **The Rev Herb Ringo** (**ret.**) died on Oct. 26 at Swedish Hospital. Cards may be sent to: Berit Ringo; 11025 Bartlett Ave NE; Seattle, WA 98125. A memorial service was held at University Lutheran in Seattle.

† **Pastor Ron Moe Lobeda, University Lutheran, Seattle,** underwent surgery on October 31. Ron asks for continuing prayers and is thankful for the prayerful support thus far in his treatment. Cards may be sent to him at home: Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda; 623 NW 8th St Seattle, WA 98117

† **ELCA Secretary-Elect David Swartling**'s father passed away in October. David's father was being evacuated (California Fires) from his home at Covenant Village in San Diego at the time of his death.

† At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting,** we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan despite efforts toward peace. We pray for the people of Iraq and the people of Afghanistan and all people experiencing concern. We pray for peace.

Within Our Family depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, toll free 1-800-244-6997. This newsletter is shared among many people. The synod tries to limit personal information on the prayer list. Please consider contacting those on this list to let them know that you are holding them in your prayers.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Jean M Barrington	Trinity, Point Roberta	10/15/2007
Ryan D Fletcher	Our Savior, Issaquah	11/16/2007
Bill Walles	Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley	12/1/2007
Eileen Hanson	Trinity, Lynnwood	10/1/2007
Bill Walles	Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley	12/1/2007
Tammie Zarfos, Associate in Ministry	Holy Spirit, Kirkland	11/11/2007
Installations		
Jean Barrington	Trinity Community, Point Roberts	10/21/2007
John M Bjorge	Firsh Richmond Beach, Shoreline	10/27/2007
Elwood (Woody) Carlson	Wooden Cross, Woodinville	11//4/2007
Paul Sai Wei Cheung	Sammamish Hills, Sammamish	11/18/2007
Darla DeFrance	Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Seattle	10/28/2007
Ryan D Fletcher	Our Savior, Issaquah	12/2/2007
Occasions/Events		
Bethany, Seattle	100th Anniversary	10/21/2007
Ordinations/Commissionings		
Jan M Cherry, Diaconal Minister	Bethany, Seattle	10/21/2007
Tammie Zarfos, Associate in Ministry	Cross and Crown, Renton	11/11/2007
Resignation		
Mary Bosell	Burlington, Burlington	11/12/2007
Retirement		
Richard V. Anderson	Monroe, WA	10/1/2007

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

(Transitions can be found on page 14.)

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Everett, Faith	PR	C	Dick Wendt, Interim
Everett, Trinity	PR	P	Chris Anderson, Interim
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Stuart Lundahl, Interim
Kirkland, Holy Spirit	A	C	Mike Anderson, Lead Pastor; Kathryn Buffum, Interim
Marysville, Bethlehem	PR	TR	Neil Snider, Interim
Mercer Island, Holy Trinity	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Seattle, Calvary	PR	TR	Supply
Seattle, Crown	PR	TR	Dan Selmann, Interim
Seattle, Luther Memorial	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Washington Synod
5519 Phinney Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103-5299

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Soundings
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